1/20/71

Dear Ed,

Very much appreciate the complement in your 1/17. Sylvia correctly represented my apprehensions. Let me explain briefly, for I've much new and pressing legal work to do (and in the context of this fear, do I want it to be a futility?)

There are several areas of worry. The stuff I've thus far seen of what has been declassified inmcludes only what I was pressing for (and the Ferrie stuff should never have been withheld and was withheld me while it was being declassified, though I'd filed the requisite forms, etc.) What I've seen that is of concern is of two categories:

What cannot properly be used and if used means personal injury to the people involved (nasty and medical records utterly irrelevant to the assassination);
What almost nobody can use to the fullest extent and what requires further investigation, now within possibility, but all chances of succeeding likely to end with the first publicity.

Except for the couple I've informed, I don't think anyone, including DJ, understands what they let me have, and it is important.

I think you'll have no trouble understanding my personal feeling, that I've spent years of costly effort getting this stuff, denied me even while it was being made available, and have earned the first use. I readily admit that with the typical dirty tricks, everyone now has equal access and equal legal right. However, the only use I could begin to anticipate by others would be shallow and sensational, neither of which can help us, if they see even that.

It all takes time, but even without further investigation or the litigation I may still file (this release may have been intended to forestall that), proper use of this stuff requires proper context and background as well as what I have and others do not that is relevant. If I didn't have to spend the time I do fending off nuts and defending all of us against their stupidities, I'd have more writing done.

However, it is not with the "gnats" that I am concerned. It is with what the government can do once any of this is misued. It will not only further reduce our public and media credibility, but it will lay a legal foundation for suppressions. I do hope this is clear for I must get onto the pressing legal work.

I'll have a complete set of what has been declassidied. I ordered it when I was promised the money, which now looks like aboutb$250.00 I'll be happy when that money gets here. In a month it hasn't!.

Again, thanks. And remember, I have to recall that spears and bows and arrows have brought down modern aviation, so defense is a necessity, not an indulgence.